

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. By this amendment, claims 9 and 17-21 have been cancelled, claims 1-6 and 10-16 have been amended, and new claims 22-26 have been inserted. Claims 1-8, 10-16 and 22-26 are pending in this application. It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments introduce no new matter within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §132.

The cancellation of claims 9 and 17-21 and the features as applied to the remaining independent claims is made without prejudice to later prosecution of the subject matter of these claims in this application or a subsequent continuation application.

Election Without Traverse

In the outstanding Office Action, there was an indication that the application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct inventions.

- I) Claims 1-16, drawn to an apparatus and method for dyeing fibers using a supporting system for carrying the fibers;
- II Claims 17-20, drawn to a method for dyeing fibers in the form of a roving or of a tow of filaments; and
- II) Claim 21, drawn to a method for preparing yarn.

Applicant elects to continue prosecution of Group I, claims 1-16, drawn to an apparatus and method for dyeing fibers using a supporting system for carrying the fibers. This election is made without traverse.

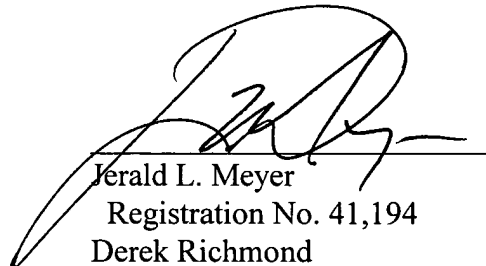
CONCLUSION

In view of the preceding election, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to conduct a first substantive examination of the application, and further prosecution of the application is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned if it is believed that it will expedite the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,
THE NATH LAW GROUP

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THE NATH LAW GROUP
112 South West Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-2891
Tel: 703-548-6284
Fax: 703-683-8396



Jerald L. Meyer
Registration No. 41,194
Derek Richmond
Registration No. 45,771
Stanley N. Protigal
Registration No. 28,657
Customer No. 20529